



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT ELECTS PRESIDING AND ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGES FOR 2003 and 2004

The judges of the Ventura Superior Court have re-elected Judge Bruce A. Clark as Presiding Judge and Judge John R. Smiley as Assistant Presiding Judge for a second two-year term. The election was held Wednesday during the judges' weekly meeting. The new term for both begins January 1, 2003.

Judge Clark was elected to the Municipal Court in 1978. He served as Municipal Court Presiding Judge in 1984, 1992, and 1993. He was elevated to the Superior Court in June 1998 and served as Assistant Presiding Judge from 1998 through 2000. He has been the Superior Court Presiding Judge since January 2001.

Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Clark worked in the Ventura County District Attorney's Office as Deputy District Attorney from 1969 to 1976 and as Chief Trial Deputy District Attorney from 1976 to 1978. Judge Clark graduated from the University of Redlands and the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law.

Judge Smiley was appointed to the Municipal Court in 1986, elected in 1988 and re-elected in 1994 and 2000. He served as Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court in 1994 and 1995 and as Assistant Presiding Judge in 1992 and 1993. In June 1998, he was elevated to the Superior Court. He has served as the Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division for the past five years and has been the Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge since January 2001. He was named Judge of the Year for 2000 by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Smiley was a partner in the firm of Lucking, Bertelsen, Bysshe, Kuttler & Smiley in Ventura and practiced family and business law for thirteen years. Judge Smiley graduated from Princeton University and Southwestern University School of Law. He has taught at the National Judicial College in Nevada since 1992 and at the Ventura College of Law since 1986.

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